

Message Text

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EXDIS - SPECAT EXCLUSIVE-MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

NSG PLEASE PASS TO EDWARD PECK FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1200 EST, 10/30

1. MILITARY SITUATION - THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD
ON BOTH FRONTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN ISRAELI ARMY
REPORT THAT THREE GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES WERE FIRED AT--
AND MISSED--AN IAF PLANE EAST OF THE CANAL. AN UNTSO
SOURCE REPORTS THAT GEN DAYAN'S INTERIM REPLY WAS QTE NO
UNQTE TO UN SECGEN WALDHEIM'S REQUEST, RELAYED BY GEN
SILVASUO, THAT ISRAEL FORCES RETURN TO POSITIONS OCCUPIED
BY THEM AT 1650 GMT OCT 22. DAYAN SAID, HOWEVER, HE WOULD
CONSULT WITH MRS. MEIR THIS AFTERNOON AND AN OFFICIAL
ANSWER WOULD BE GIVEN SHORTLY. UNARMED SOLDIERS OF EGYPT'S
THIRD ARMY CROSSED TO THE ISRAELI-HELD WEST BANK OF THE
CANAL TO UNLOAD 20 MORE TRUCKS OF SUPPLIES BROUGHT THROUGH
ISRAELI LINES BY UN PERSONNEL. PRIMIN MEIR ALSO CROSSED
TO THE WEST BANK OF THE CANAL ON MONDAY (29TH) AND TOLD
ISRAELI TROOPS THAT US PRESSURE FORCED ISRAEL TO QTE AC-
CEPT DECISIONS AND AGREE ON THINGS WE ARE AGAINST UNQTE.

2. POW'S - CAIRO MENA REPORTS THAT THE LISTS OF ISRAELI
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POW'S HELD BY EGYPT ARE ON THEIR WAY. HOWEVER, IT CON-
TINUES, THE EGYPTIAN COMMAND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
EXCHANGE QTE PRISONERS AND WOUNDED PERSONNEL UNQTE ONLY

WHEN THE ISRAELIS RETURN TO THE OCT 22 LINES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS OF OCT 22 AND 23. NEVERTHELESS, GEN DAYAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A QTE WOUNDED PRISONERS UNQTE EXCHANGE HAS BEEN AGREED UPON WITH EGYPT AND THAT THE FIRST ISRAELI TO BE RELEASED UNDER THE AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN HANDED OVER. DAYAN ADDED TO A KNESSET QUESTIONER, QTE SO FAR WE HAVE NO REASON TO DISBELIEVE THE EGYPTIANS WHEN THEY PROMISE AN UNDERTAKING OF THIS KIND. UNQTE FONMIN EBAN HAS EMPHASIZED THE URGENCY OF THE POW PROBLEM IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMB KEATING, AND THE ISRAELI PRESS OCT 30 GIVES PROMINENCE TO A QTE WARNING UNQTE ADDRESSED TO EGYPT AND SYRIA THAT THEY WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FATE OF 440 IDF SOLDIERS REPORTED TO BE MISSING IN ACTION. THE WARNING WAS NOT A FORMAL GOI OR IDF STATEMENT, BUT WAS PLANTED WITH THE PRESS BY AN IDF OFFICER. ISRAEL SAYS IT CURRENTLY HAS 7177 POW'S: 6800 EGYPTIANS, 350 SYRIANS, 20 IRAQIS, AND 7 MOROCCANS.

3. MEIR VISIT - AT 1100 HOURS EST OCT 30, THE ISRAELIS AND THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT PRIMIN MEIR WILL FLY TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON BEGINNING THURS, NOV 1. THE PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH MRS. MEIR WILL FOLLOW HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET AMB DOBRYNIN AND EGYPTIAN ACTING FONMIN ISMAIL FAHMI.

4. OIL - THE DUTCH HAVE ANNOUNCED A ROYAL DECREE WHICH BARS ALL TRAVEL IN PRIVATELY OWNED AUTOMOBILES ON SUNDAY IN ORDER TO CONSERVE GASOLINE. THE OECD OIL COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO MEET ON NOV 1 WITH REPS OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES TO REQUEST THEM TO POOL INFORMATION AND REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE OIL SUPPLY SITUATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE NOV 19-21 OECD MEETINGS ON OIL.

5. PALESTINIAN STATE - NEWS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT INDICATE THAT MAJOR PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ENVISIONED
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BY UNSC RESOLUTION 338. THE SOVIET AMB IN BEIRUT IS SAID TO BE MAKING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE RESISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE AND TO ACCEPT A PALESTINIAN STATE CONSISTING OF THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN AND GAZA AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THE PFLP IS SAID TO OPPOSE PARTICIPATION. THE TWO MAIN ORGANIZATIONS, AL-FATAH AND AS-SAIQA, HAVE ALLEGEDLY NOT YET TAKEN A STAND, BUT THERE IS SAID TO BE A STRONG TREND WITHIN FATAH TO PARTICIPATE SO THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL BE DENIED THE CHANCE OF APPEARING TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS.

6. AIRLINES - TWA HAS INFORMED US THAT IT WILL TODAY RESUME SERVICE TO BOTH TEL AVIV AND CAIRO.

7. VENUE FOR MIDDLE EAST TALKS - PRESIDENT MAKARIOS OF CYPRUS HAS OFFERED TO PLACE THE ISLAND AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A POSSIBLE MEETING PLACE FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS. KISSINGER

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